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UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion It's Pride Month, y'all! Email

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Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

It's Pride Month, y'all! 🌈

1 message

UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <robert.jackson@maine.edu>
Reply-To: UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <robert.jackson@maine.edu>
To: matthew.revitt@maine.edu

Tue, Jun 1, 2021 at 4:09 PM



Hello friends, and Happy Pride Month to our LGBTQIA2S+ friends and neighbors!

This Pride, we celebrate the beautifully diverse and resilient queer community, both here in Orono and around the world. We honor the black trans women who paved the way for us at the first Pride, and we center their experiences and needs now as we continue the fight for justice.

It can be easy to get swept up in the fanfare, bright colors, and loud statements of support many will issue this week, but I ask you to join me in demanding real action and a commitment to change at all levels of society. [The Equality Act](#), which would enshrine anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQIA2S+ folks into federal law, has yet to be passed in Washington. Trans folks, most of whom are Black trans women, continue to face disproportionate levels of harassment, discrimination, and violence, and their murders continue to go unreported, uninvestigated, or misrepresented. Queer youth continue to be at much higher risk of mental health struggles, substance abuse, and suicide. We continue to debate queer rights as a matter of religious freedom, as though one's beliefs or religion should exempt them from treating our queer neighbors with respect and dignity. There is much work to be done, and changing your profile picture or buying an Ally shirt at Target will do nothing to move us forward.

If you are LGBTQIA2S+, I ask that you please do what you can to celebrate this month in whatever way you feel most affirmed, safe, and supported. Existing as

queer and trans people can often feel like a full-time job of its own, and you deserve to enjoy a month where you may feel a greater sense of community and support. If you're not ready to come out, we hold space for you too, and know that you are just as much a treasured member of our community and JUST as valid in your identity.

For those of you who are not part of the community but want to be supportive this month, I ask you first and foremost to listen. The LGBTQIA2S+ leaders in your community are always sharing ways that folks can walk the walk and be an ally to us. Donate your time or money if you are able. I've listed some organizations doing this work below, and Twitter can be a great place to find queer and trans folks seeking financial support if you would prefer to give directly to somebody in need. Remember that while Pride month centers LGBTQIA2S+ folks, we are also a broadly diverse community that includes people of color, disabled folks, marginalized religious identities, and folks of many other minoritized experiences. Pride does not fulfill its mission if it is not inclusive and accessible to ALL queer folks, and your work should reflect that too. Support marginalized folks year-round and across the board, not just the communities that you are most familiar with and only during their respective heritage or celebratory months.

Happy Pride to all, near or far, out or closeted, and of all identities. You are valid, precious, and important members of this community, and we love you.

With pride,

Rob Jackson
Office for Diversity and Inclusion

Looking for an organization to support this month? Check out the national and local ones below!

[MaineTransNet](#) is a community based organization led by transgender people for transgender people. We provide peer-to-peer support groups, social and community events, advocacy for the transgender community across Maine, and transgender cultural competency training for medical, mental health, and social service providers. We engage transgender people and our allies across Maine in the practice of community building and organizing for mutual liberation. Our work is rooted in a deep desire to care for one another, which leads us to focus our efforts on building systems of mutual support on a bedrock of accessibility, inclusivity, and hospitality. We view structures of power and oppression as interlocking, and believe in finding our leadership from among those people who experience this as a reality in their daily lives.

[Health Equity Alliance](#) (HEAL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization providing direct service and advocacy with and on behalf of people in Maine who live with HIV, people who use drugs, and our LGBTQ+ community. Health Equity Alliance envisions a world where all people are valued and celebrated, and health disparities

such as HIV, Hepatitis C, AIDS-related deaths, and overdose deaths are nonexistent. By facilitating collaboration, education, advocacy, and action, HEAL helps empower marginalized communities to improve their health and well-being, and affect social and cultural change.

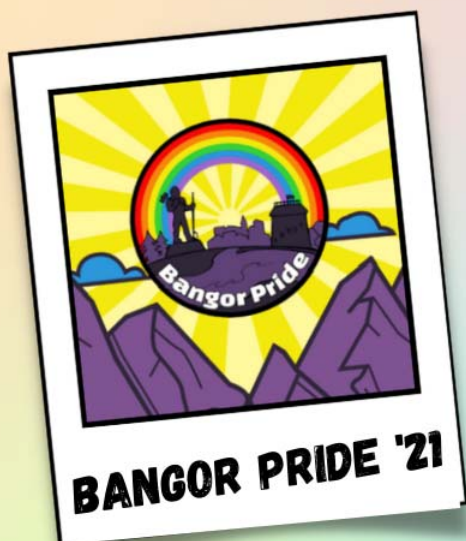
[Trans Lifeline](#) provides trans peer support for our community that's been divested from police since day one. We're run by and for trans people. Trans Lifeline is a grassroots hotline and microgrants 501(c)(3) non-profit organization offering direct emotional and financial support to trans people in crisis – for the trans community, by the trans community.

[Rainbow Railroad](#) is a global not-for-profit organization that helps LGBTQI+ people facing persecution based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics. In a time when there are more displaced people than ever before, LGBTQI+ people are uniquely vulnerable due to systemic, state-enabled homophobia and transphobia. These factors either displace them in their own country or prevent them from escaping harm.

Founded in 1998 by the creators of the Academy Award®-winning short film *TREVIS*, [The Trevor Project](#) is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer & questioning (LGBTQ) young people under 25.



HAPPY PRIDE MONTH!



JUNE 2021 EVENTS

Down East AIDS Walk

Ellsworth, ME

June 5th, 1:30 PM

Drive-In Movie Take Over

Bangor, ME

June 25th

Time and Movie announcement
coming this week!

Bangor Pride

Stationary Parade

Bangor Raceway

June 26th, 12:00 PM

Down East AIDS Walk, happening on June 5th in Ellsworth, go to <https://www.mainehealthequity.org/down-east-aids-walk> for more information!

Bangor Pride Drive-In Movie Takeover, happening on June 25th at the Bangor Drive In Theatre, time and movie announcements coming this week, so stay tuned!

Bangor Pride Stationary Parade! The main event of Bangor Pride 2021 will happen on June 26th at the Bangor Raceway, go to <https://fb.me/e/AcktS3lz> for more information!

Want to enter a float in the Stationary Parade? Go to <https://docs.google.com/.../1K.../edit...>



The Orono Pride Zoo and Orono Pride Story Doors are spending the first two weeks of June at Webster Park. Stop by and visit-- take photos, read a book by the non-binaray lion, call a friend by the pansexual panda-- and read the new plaques to learn more about each new and old flag. [Follow Orono Pride on Facebook](#) to keep up with the latest!

**#STOP
ASIAN
HATE**



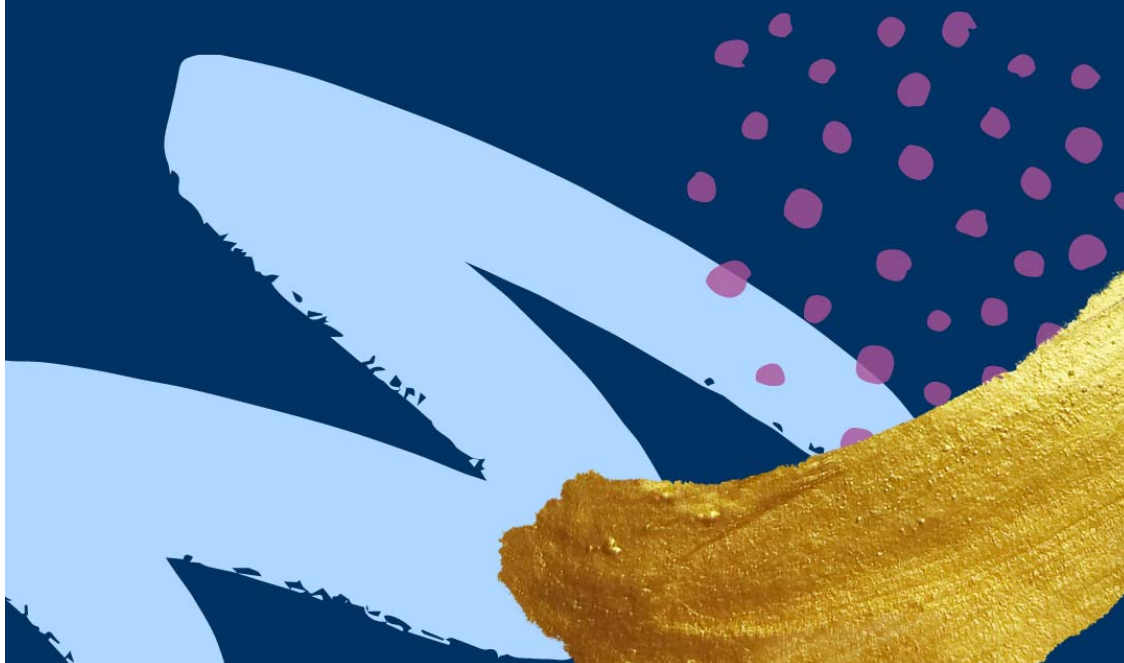
Stonewall Forever is a documentary from NYC's LGBT Community Center directed by Ro Haber. The film brings together voices from over 50 years of the LGBTQ rights movement to explore queer activism before, during and after the Stonewall Riots. The history of the Stonewall Riots is equally as cherished as it is charged. There are questions of who was there, who “threw the first brick” and who can claim Stonewall.

This film doesn't answer these questions but instead it aims to expand the story of Stonewall by including more voices in its telling. Stonewall Forever brings together queer activists, experienced and new, to look at the movement for LGBTQ equality before, during and after Stonewall. It highlights trans people, people of color and homeless people who were at the forefront of the movement, and who have often been erased from the narrative. It explores how the activism of today stands on the shoulders of the activists who have come before. And it asks us all to recognize the legacy of Stonewall that remains today, when the struggle for queer rights is far from over.

Stonewall Forever was directed by Ro Haber and created by a predominantly queer and trans cast and crew who are proud to be a part of preserving this legacy.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

umaine.edu/campusrecreation/callforartists



CALL FOR ARTISTS! Banner Designs Wanted. Campus Recreation recently updated our statement for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. We are seeking artists' concepts for two new banners that will highlight these values.

Visit umaine.edu/campusrecreation/callforartists for more details.



This email was sent to matthew.revitt@maine.edu

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